

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:08 P.M., Thursday, October 1, 2009 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson; Barbara Kirby, Vice Chairperson; Jane Conner, Cessie Howell. Frank White arrived at 3:14 P.M. Ann Best-Rolls was absent.

Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk and Arch Di Peppe, Vice Chairman, Planning Commission.

Presentations by the Public. No members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of Commission Minutes. The Commission meeting minutes for September 3, 2009 were not complete and will be presented at the November 5th meeting. The Commission Clerk went out of town on a family matter.

- Continue Revising the Historic Preservation Award Process.

Anita Dodd asked the Commission if they would like to revamp the system and/or basically adopt the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc. (HFFI) guidelines.

Barbara Kirby said one suggestion she liked is the different areas of support for example landscaping, commercial or residential.

Jane Conner said the Beautification Committee gives awards for landscaping. She said perhaps keep the award in line with preservation.

Anita Dodd said the landscaping award would be in the vein of preservation not beautification, for example the Gardens of Belmont or the Gardens of Chatham.

Barbara Kirby said the categories could include a category of archiving historical records.

Anita Dodd said it seems as though the Commission will take on a major revamping and perhaps the Commission should not give awards for the year 2009 to allow time to update the guidelines and have them in place for next Fall. Commission members agreed.

Jane Conner said the Commission could give an education award. Anita Dodd said they could refer to the award as a volunteer award for 2009. Barbara Kirby said that would allow additional time to make decisions.

Anita Dodd said she would like to form a subcommittee to facilitate the Commission with ideas and advice regarding the awards process. Jane Conner and Cessie Howell volunteered. Anita Dodd said the subcommittee can develop a list of individuals involved with the nominating process. She said Kerri Barile Ph D of Dovetail Cultural Resource Group, Inc.'s suggestions are much broader than the Commission's guidelines in the past. Anita Dodd said this is an attempt to get broader input on potential nominees. Anita Dodd said the subcommittee may consider special interest groups. Commission members said those groups generally honor members from within the group.

Cessie Howell clarified that the Commission would want to consider more entities than previously. The current entities are the County's Historical Commission, Historical Society, Architectural Review Board, the Planning Commission, the Cemetery Committee and the Moncure Conway Foundation. Commission members mentioned adding businesses, and consulting with cultural resource management firms.

Kathy Baker asked if the Commission was limiting groups or considering all groups or targeting particular groups for nominations. She said her only concern would be the possibility of excluding someone.

Anita Dodd said the Commission could consult with Friends of the Stafford Civil War Sites and the National Park System for example. Commission members reiterated missing a year due to the major undertaking. The award is given every May in honor of National Historic Preservation Month. To clarify, recipients for 2010 would receive their award in May of 2011.

Jane Conner asked if the awards are going to continue to be based on accomplishments for the previous one-year period. Anita Dodd said that is one of the examples the Commission would like the subcommittee to report back on.

Kathy Baker mentioned the County's budget issue. She said the County is starting the 2011 fiscal year budget process. Jane Conner said she received a paper certificate inserted into an acrylic frame from an organization for an award and it still meant a lot to her. Cessie Howell said the subcommittee would get creative for the actual award. Anita Dodd reminded the Commission that, in the past, the awards were presented at a small reception which may change as well. However, she suggested the Commission attempt to obtain some funding for the presentations. She said the Board of Supervisors attend the reception.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Cessie Howell to request a budget of \$500 from the County to cover postage, awards and the reception for the Historic Preservation Awards.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (4) Conner, Dodd, Howell, White

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Best-Rolls

- Complete and Finalize the Revision of the Phase I Portion of Proposed Ordinance O06-47 dated July 18, 2006 to Present to the Board of Supervisors Regarding Archaeological Surveys and Investigations.

Anita Dodd said she will review the Commission's notes with members at this time and submit an electronic copy to them by Monday for editing.

- page 3 - definitions of the phases I, II & III
- referencing notes - the Commission was pleased with Chapter 6 definitions
- the end of page 4 - section on special regulations - reiterates Chapter 6 on what the phase studies should accomplish
- next a section on the entities that are to be researched to initially identify if there is a cultural resource present - the Commission decided to add local historians
- the bulk of Chapter 6 is technical descriptions of how the investigations are conducted & should remain in the addendum
- the language explaining why the investigations are conducted was the most important item to be added into the actual ordinance

Again, Kathy Baker explained the process for submitting a draft amended ordinance:

- edited, corrected & approved by the Historical Commission
- then edited & corrected by Planning staff
- then reviewed by County Attorney
- then submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review & referral to the Planning Commission
- then submitted to the Planning Commission for public hearing & approval
- then submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval for advertisement for public hearing
- then resubmitted to the Board for public hearing and adoption after proper advertisement

Kathy Baker said the proposed ordinance will not go before the Board until after the first of the year. The Commission said it is important to have strong support from different entities and citizens. Frank White pointed out the different ideas that exist on preservation.

The Clerk left the meeting to retrieve additional copies of proposed Ordinance 006-47. The Clerk provided Commission members with copies of an article sent by e-mail by Arch Di Peppe that he wrote regarding cemeteries.

The Commission was pleased with the article. Arch Di Peppe hoped to have it published in the Free Lance-Star newspaper by next week. Kathy Baker said she would look up, for accuracy, the date the Cemetery Committee was established. Anita Dodd said Charlie Price, now deceased, began working on cemetery information and maintenance as early as 1987 before there was an actual committee established.

The Commission thanked Arch Di Peppe for the article and his support.

Update by Commission Chairperson. Anita Dodd said she had an update on a house located in the Glens, Section 3, donated to the Fire & Rescue Department. She said she was able to discuss the process with a staff member of the department. He assured her they would contact her when a building is to be demolished so the Commission can determine the importance and level of recordation.

Updates by Commission Members. Barbara Kirby said the Cemetery Committee is still working on the Greenhowe Cemetery. Kathy Baker said there is a letter sent to the Attorney General from the Board this month regarding the cemetery.

- Jane Conner said she and Cessie Howell are attending a meeting on the Accokeek Creek Civil War Site Plan Committee, tomorrow. She said her husband, Al Conner, has encouraged this group to make this site a template on how to preserve other historic sites. He disseminated a map with all Civil War sites that are related. He has encouraged an over-lay of what the parks service has previously noted.

- Anita Dodd said the park service did a historic overlay for Spotsylvania County as well. Barbara Kirby said the County paid for the report. Anita Dodd said it is her understanding the information is forthcoming.

- Frank White said he has heard very favorable comments about the group as a body and they worked on the Trail to Freedom or the Yankees in Falmouth events as well.

- Jane Conner said there were over 200 people at the Trail to Freedom event.

- Cessie Howell said the record should show that Jane Conner won a "Women of Distinction Award" from the Girl Scouts.

Adjournment. At 4:01 P.M., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd - Chairperson

Barbara Kirby – Vice Chairperson